

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

House Bill No. 612 by Representative Fannin

CURRICULA: Provides relative to the high school career option program

Synopsis of Senate Amendments	
1.	Requires students failing to meet 8th grade LEAP standards to successfully complete a summer remediation program or take developmental courses to ensure preparedness for high school work.
2.	Requires BESE to certify that the pupil progression plan of school systems that promote students who did not meet 8th grade LEAP standards to the 9th grade contains certain GPA, attendance, and behavior requirements and requires such students to participate in a dropout prevention and mentoring program.
3.	Adds provisions requiring state Dept. of Education annually to collect data relative to the implementation of the career diploma program and to report such data to the House and Senate committees on education by Jan. 15, 2013.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law provides for a high school career option program, consisting of an academic major (college prep. courses) and a career major (academic courses and modern vocational studies). Proposed law additionally requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to develop and adopt requirements for career major programs offered by school boards and to issue a career diploma to students who successfully complete such requirements. Further provides that a career diploma shall be considered a regular standard diploma and be recognized by institutions under the management and supervision of the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges (LCTCS board).

Present law requires students, by the end of 8th grade, to develop a "Five-Year Educational Plan". Proposed law changes the plan's name to "Five-Year Individual Graduation Plan".

Present law requires a 9th and 10th grade student to pursue the core curriculum required for his chosen major by his school, including required course work and electives. Proposed law instead requires a student to pursue the curriculum for his chosen major as approved by BESE throughout high school. Present law allows students to change from one major to another at the end of any school year. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that a career major shall provide a student with greater technical skill and a strong academic core and be offered to each high school student. Requires a career major to be linked to postsecondary options; to prepare students to pursue a degree or certification from a postsecondary institution, an industry-based training or certification, an apprenticeship, the military, or immediate entrance into a career field; to be primarily designed for students not initially college bound; and to provide such students with alternatives to immediate entrance into a four-year institution after graduation.

Proposed law retains present law but makes it applicable only to students enrolled in a school system that offers a career major program. Adds that when available and appropriate, students pursuing such a major may participate in dual enrollment with an institution under the management and supervision of the LCTCS board or a business internship or work-study program.

Present law requires each high school to offer at least one career major program. Proposed law instead requires public school systems to develop and offer at least one career major program, subject to BESE approval, and provides that any such system may be granted a

waiver by BESE for good cause.

Present law requires schools to review majors each year and expand offerings as appropriate, including courses offered through articulation, correspondence, and technological methods. Proposed law adds courses offered through dual enrollment to a list of expanded offerings.

Present law requires students in a career major program to complete an academic core of courses and a career and technical sequence of courses. Proposed law makes the following changes to the career major course requirements:

- (1) Present law requires at least four English credits in courses with content equal to that of college prep. English.

Proposed law retains number of required English credits and provides that courses include English I and II and two other courses comparable or identical to English courses taught at La. Technical College (LTC), as approved by BESE.

- (2) Present law requires at least three math credits (at least two with content equal to that of college prep. math).

Proposed law increases number of required math credits from three to four and instead of requiring content equivalence with college prep. math, requires inclusion of Algebra I, Algebra I part one, Algebra I part two, or an applied or hybrid math course, and additional applied or hybrid math courses comparable or identical to math courses taught at LTC, as approved by BESE.

- (3) Present law requires at least three science credits (at least two with content equal to that of college prep. science).

Proposed law retains required number of science credits but instead of requiring two to have such content, requires one unit of biology and two courses chosen from a list of science courses related to a student's career major, as approved by BESE.

- (4) Present law requires at least three social studies credits (at least two courses with content equal to that of college prep. social studies). Requires ½ unit each of free enterprise and civics.

Proposed law retains number of required social studies credits and instead of requiring two to have such content, requires one unit of American history and one additional course, as approved by BESE. Retains free enterprise and civics requirement.

- (5) Present law requires at least two credits in health and P.E. Proposed law retains present law.

- (6) Present law requires at least six credits (four in an area of concentration and two related credits, including one in a computer technology course). Provides that courses shall be selected to prepare a student for postsecondary education or a career.

Proposed law instead requires at least seven credits in career and technical education courses with end of course testing as approved by BESE, including at least ½ credit in a career readiness course and one unit in a computer applications course. (Retains present law relative to selection of courses.)

- (7) Proposed law requires additional electives or career units as required by the school board, as approved by BESE.

Present law requires career major graduation requirements to consist of requirements mandated by BESE for all high school students, including all testing and course requirements

and all provisions of present law relative to required courses of study (R.S. 17:261 through 279).

Proposed law instead requires public school boards seeking to establish a career major to submit a proposed career major curriculum to BESE for approval which includes the courses described in (1) through (7) above and that such curriculum comply with present law relative to required courses of study (R.S. 17:261 through 280).

Proposed law requires a student seeking to pursue a career major curriculum to meet one of the following conditions:

- (1) The student has fulfilled all requirements established by BESE and the local public school board for promotion to 9th grade.
- (2) The student is at least 15 or will turn 15 during the upcoming school year and has scored at least approaching basic on either the English/language arts or math component of the 8th grade LEAP test and meets criteria established by the local school system's pupil progression plan to enter the 9th grade for the purpose of pursuing a career major curriculum. Such student must also complete a summer remediation program in the subject area of any LEAP test component on which he scored at the unsatisfactory level. A student who fails to satisfactorily complete summer remediation must complete developmental courses (for credit) as deemed necessary to be prepared to undertake the coursework required for his chosen career major.

Proposed law requires BESE to certify that the pupil progression plan of each local school system that promotes a student who did not meet 8th grade LEAP standards to the 9th grade contains the following requirements:

- (1) Such student must have earned a cumulative grade point average of 1.5 on a 4.0 scale for coursework required for completion of the 8th grade.
- (2) Such student must have demonstrated acceptable attendance and behavior standards as determined by BESE.
- (3) Such student must participate in a BESE approved dropout prevention and mentoring program, developed in consultation with school guidance personnel, during his first year in high school.

Proposed law requires a student seeking to pursue a career major to have written permission of his parent or legal guardian after consultation with a guidance counselor or school administrator and a determination that participation in a career major curriculum and pursuit of a career diploma is appropriate and in student's best interest.

Proposed law requires the state Dept. of Education annually to collect data relative to the implementation of the career diploma program, including number of students, age, gender, ethnicity, scores on the 8th grade LEAP exam, and academic progress. Further requires the department to report by Jan. 15, 2013, to the House and Senate education committees relative to such data and any related recommendations.

Present law provides for career major programs to be designed by a curriculum design team, for submission of proposed curricula by such team, for a career major pilot program, for implementation timelines, and for certain exempt school systems. Proposed law repeals present law.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:183.1, 183.2, and 183.3; Adds R.S. 17:183.10; Repeals R.S. 17:183.4, 183.6, 183.7, 183.8, and 183.9)